

Message Text

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R 020241Z PEB 78
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO ALL EAST ASIAN AND PACIFIC DIPLOMATIC POSTS
XMT AMEMBASSY SUVA

S E C R E T STATE 027722

STADIS//////////

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MILI, OVIP, ENRG

SUBJECT: WEEKLY STATUS REPORT -- THAILAND, INDONESIA,
MALAYSIA, BURMA AND SINGAPORE AFFAIRS

MALAYSIA

KING AND QUEEN VISIT (CONF)

AS PART OF A WORLDWIDE TOUR, THE KING AND QUEEN (PLUS THE
SULTAN OF SELANGOR) WILL VISIT THE US PRIVATELY MARCH 27-
APRIL 16. STOPS WILL INCLUDE HONOLULU, SANFRAN, LOS
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SINGAPORE

US-ASEAN DIALOGUE (CONF)

SENIOR SINGAPORE ECONOMIC OFFICIALS HAVE TOLD AMERICAN

BUSINESS COUNCIL REPS THAT THE GOS CONSIDERS THE SECOND US-ASEAN MEETING IN MID-1978 AS AN EXTREMELY IMPORTANT INDICATOR OF THE UTILITY OF A CONTINUING US-ASEAN DIALOGUE. HOWEVER, THE GOS DOES NOT SEE HOW MOMENTUM CAN BE MAINTAINED. THE EMBASSY COMMENTS THAT WHAT IS IMPORTANT TO THE GOS IS THAT THE US-ASEAN DIALOGUE FOCUS USG ATTENTION ON SEASIA AND PROVIDE A FORM TO MAKE ASEAN INTEREST AND OBJECTIVES KNOWN.

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CONGRESSIONAL CONSULTATIONS ON P-3C STAGING FROM SINGAPORE HAVE BEEN SUCCESSFULLY COMPLETED. A PROPOSED DRAFT LETTER TO PM LEE FROM AMB HOLDRIDGE IS NOW BEING CLEARED.

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EMBASSY RANGOON HAS INITIALLY TERMED THE TENG HSIAO-PING VISIT "UNREMARKABLE", "FILLED WITH SOCIALIST POMP", "NON-SUBSTANTIVE" AND A RATHER "ROUTINE AFFAIR,. US
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PRESS STORIES ALSO EVIDENCE BEMUSEMENT. A FINAL ASSESSMENT WILL PROBABLY NOT BE AVAILABLE IMMEDIATELY IN VIEW OF BURMESE SECRECY. AMB BEAN WAS NOT INVITED TO OFFICIAL EVENTS BECAUSE OF OUR NON-RECOGNITION OF THE PRC, BUT IT APPEARS THAT RECOGNITION DID NOT PROVIDE MUCH GREATER ACCESS FOR HIS DIPLOMATIC COLLEAGUES.

INDONESIA/THAILAND

NEW HEARINGS BEFORE FRASER SUBCOMMITTEE (CONF)

CONGRESSMAN FRASER HAS INFORMED THE DEPT OF HIS INTENT TO HOLD A SERIES OF HEARINGS ON SEVEN COUNTRIES TO REVIEW (A) THE HUMAN RIGHTS REPORTS SUBMITTED TO CONGRESS ON JANUARY 31, AND (B) THE APPLICATION OF THE HUMAN RIGHTS SECTION (SECTION 502B) OF THE SECURITY ASSISTANCE ACT IN THE FORMULATION OF THE FY 79 SECURITY ASSISTANCE PROGRAM. RE ASIA, FRASER HAS PROPOSED HEARINGS ON INDONESIA FOR FEB 8 AND THAILAND (AND THE PHILIPPINES) ON FEB 15. JOHN SALZBERG OF FRASER'S STAFF HAS TOLD US THAT HE EXPECTS THE INDONESIA HEARINGS TO DEAL, INTER ALIA, WITH PRISONER

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PL 480 RICE AND WHEAT (CONF)

INTERAGENCY APPROVAL HAS BEEN GIVEN FOR THE MOST RECENT REQUEST OF 18.9 MILLION DOLS TITLE I RICE AND WHEAT PROGRAM FOR INDONESIA. THE EMBASSY HAS BEEN INSTRUCTED TO NEGOTIATE THE AGREEMENT WITH THE GOI. THIS WILL MAKE IT POSSIBLE TO SHIP APPROXIMATELY 260,000 METRIC TONS OF RICE DURING THE PRESENT INDONESIAN FISCAL YEAR. TOTAL IMPORTS OF RICE, ABOUT 2.5 MILLION TONS, HAVE BEEN VERY HIGH DUE TO A SECOND STRAIGHT POOR HARVEST YEAR. INITIAL ESTIMATES ARE FOR CONTINUING HIGH IMPORT NEEDS DURING 1978.

INDONESIAN REACTION TO DOE DECISION ON PAC-INDONESIA LNG CONTRACTS (CONF)

AN EXCELLENT REPORT (JAKARTA 1189), PROVIDES INDONESIAN REACTIONS TO THE DECEMBER 30 DOE DECISION ON PROPOSED INDONESIAN LNG EXPORTS TO CALIFORNIA. INITIALLY THERE WAS CONSIDERABLE INDONESIAN INCLINATION TO ALLOW THE CONTRACTS TO EXPIRE ON JANUARY 31. HOWEVER, AFTER FURTHER DISCUSSIONS WITH THE CALIFORNIA GAS COMPANIES, THE GOI DECIDED TO JOIN WITH THE COMPANIES IN APPEALING THE DECISION WHILE TRYING TO WORK OUT A NEW PRICE ESCALATION FORMULA. THIS IS THE KEY HINDRANCE TO FINAL APPROVAL. MAJOR CONCERNS OF THE INDONESIANS ARE THAT A NEW PRICE FORMULA WITH THE US COMPANIES NOT JEOPARDIZE CURRENT AND FUTURE LNG PRICES

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Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
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Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
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Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: n/a
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TAGS: ENRG, MILI, OVIP, BM, ID, MY, SN, TH, MILI
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